

That Browning had a great love for music we know from his poems, especially *Abt Vogler*, and it seems rather surprising that he should not have made the music of his poems more technically perfect. Yet his melody is peculiar to himself. It has, in some of his poems, the quaint charm of Grieg; and, in spite of the occasional false notes and discords which prevent us from regarding him as a perfect master of melody, there are in his verses great powers of music, which we can see and appreciate more as we become more familiar with his works.

A. A. C.

## EDITORIAL.

THIS number has been somewhat delayed, as we waited to ascertain the general opinion as to the advisability or otherwise of raising the subscription to 3/6. A meeting was held, most of the Committee members either attending or sending deputies to represent their year. The results are chronicled elsewhere by Miss Allen. It is hoped, however, that students and ex-students will bear in mind the objects of the Association, *i.e.*, to form a bond between all its members; and that the Magazine is only one of the means towards this end. It is hoped that Reading Unions, regular Students' Meetings, and any other plans that may be suggested, will be entered into with spirit.

Unfortunately Miss Magill finds it impossible to become Secretary to the Reading Union which has been started according to her suggestion in the last number. As, however, we cannot afford to lose any more time just now, you are asked to send your post-cards to the Editor, 62, Loampit Hill, Lewisham, S.E., *pro tem.*, and they will be forwarded to the Secretary of the Union, wherever she may be. The following are the rules of the Reading Union:—

1. Each member to study some subject of her own choosing and not necessarily having a direct bearing upon Education.
2. The subject chosen and the books used, together with any particulars that may help others who wish to take up the same line, and perhaps some epigrammatic remarks, to be written on a post-card and sent to the Editor by *May 30th*, beginning as early as you like.
3. The post-cards to be forwarded by the Editor to the Secretary of the Union, who shall select a certain number to be printed in the Magazine, *pour encourager les autres*.

Perhaps next time, when the Union has appointed a Secretary, some subjects may be set from which to choose. At



present the Editor offers merely a few suggestions, though she feels sure that the students will be at no loss for other and better ideas of their own:—

As an example of a subject which, without being of a directly educational nature, might help our history lessons, let us suppose a student to be interested in the history of Spain and Portugal. The student would read Prescott's *History of Ferdinand and Isabella*, in which book the story of Columbus and the first discoveries of the New World—a brilliant and hopeful prologue to the sad stories of the Conquest of Mexico, and the Conquest of Peru, told also by Prescott. Having traced Spain through her glorious days from the time of her efforts and strivings to the zenith of her success, we see her puffed up with the pride that comes before a fall. For this period, let me recommend *The Spanish Story of the Armada*, by Froude, an inexpensive book published by Longman, Green & Co. In the same book is a short life of Saint Teresa, "exhibiting the spiritual enthusiasm of the Spanish nation in its noblest form."

Students who attend Extension Lectures might send particulars as to their subjects and methods of study.

Besides the publication of a selection of post-cards in the Magazine, the Secretary will possibly call upon the writer of what she deems the most promising post-card to send a short essay on her subject similar to that on Browning published in this number, which resulted from an Extension Lecture.

Miss Pennethorne suggests our reading Ossian. She says we are to "remember it was Napoleon's favourite book, and even if it were a technical fraud it was the spirit, if not the letters, of a bygone age. Its simplicity and weird imagery are very childlike, and it introduces one to a young untried, untired world."

So much for the Reading Union. Now for another suggestion, which was favourably received at the meeting. This comes from Miss Pennethorne—she says, "If there is a subject I have at heart it is the teaching of contemporary history. Surely we have a double right to the lessons taught to the world in our own lifetime. It is to be wished that there should be an illustrated weekly children's newspaper, law proceedings between private persons and unnecessary horrors left out. Who will compile from the *Daily Graphic*

and illustrated and other papers, such a budget for private circulation?"

Another good resolution passed at the meeting was that the Magazine should contain a column for games. Anyone knowing of good indoor or outdoor games is asked to send descriptions thereof by May 30th.

Any change of address is to be sent to the Editor by May 30th. The full list of addresses is to be published in the first number of the year, and any changes inserted in the second and third numbers.

Perhaps some students who get up dramatic entertainments with their pupils would like to peruse one or both of two little plays that have been written by students for their pupils. One, an adaptation of the story of *Snow-white*, can be obtained from Miss Pennethorne. The other, entitled *The Changeling*, may be had from the Editor.